

# Medical Center Developer In Watts 'Claims No Glory'

Dr. Elsie Giorgi has walked through the streets of Watts wishing she were black. Somehow, she believes, she might have been more effective in helping the people there if she had been one of them.

Speaking here Wednesday before the luncheon meeting of the Harbor Area Welfare Planning Council, Dr. Giorgi told of the obstacles—and heartwarming rewards—she encountered in developing the \$2 million Watts Health Center.

Now, when she visits that embattled community and the people rush to embrace her, the hard work and disappointments seem worthwhile.

Ironically, Dr. Giorgi is no longer formally connected with the project she spearheaded. In order to proceed with Health Center work, she had to promise private physicians in the Watts area that she would not stay with the center once it was completed. Some had accused her of seeking to line her own pocket

through the clinic facility, now funded by USC and the Office of Economic Opportunity.

IN THE FEW months since the Watts Health Center opened, hundreds of lower-income people have received medical treatment they might never have had otherwise. Dr. Giorgi said that many Watts residents have waited until it was too late to seek treatment at the distant County General Hospital because of prohibitive bus costs and long waiting periods.

But Dr. Giorgi claims no glory. The credit, she said, belongs to the people of Watts who worked with center officials, providing invaluable advice and support. Without them, there would be no Watts Health Center.

"They want our help," she underlined, "even though they may at times act arrogant."

THROUGH her work with the Health Center, Dr. Giorgi has gained an intimate knowl-

edge of the people of Watts and their problems. She believes that a change in their situation must come from the "enlightened affluent," not from the "deprived and disadvantaged."

Commenting on the general health within the ghetto, Dr. Giorgi noted the infant mortality rate is 43 per 1,000 (compared with 23 per 1,000 in the United States as a whole and 13 per 1,000 in Scandinavia). Many of the little Negro children Dr. Giorgi examined are afflicted with health handicaps which will prevent them from leading normal lives if not treated.

Currently serving as director of student health service at California State College, Dominguez Hills, Dr. Giorgi is an assistant professor of medicine at USC, now on a leave of absence. Time magazine carried a full-page article on Dr. Giorgi and her work when the Watts Health Center opened in November.



ROADWAY COMPLETED . . . Irvin Morhar, left, county road commissioner, and John S. Gibson Jr., Los Angeles City Councilman, look on as Mayor Albert Isen and Supervisor Burton Chace, right, wield giant shears in dedication ceremonies for a segment of Sepulveda Boulevard between Western and Arlington Avenues. Total cost of the project—some \$304,500—was shared by the county and the City of Torrance. The old two-lane roadway was converted into a modern, four-lane thoroughfare, featuring landscaping, signalization, curbs, and a new railroad crossing protection. The segment is the last section of Sepulveda to be improved between the Harbor Freeway and the City of Torrance. (Press-Herald Photo)

## ... Sharon

(Continued from Page A-1) James K. Woolnough, Commanding General, United States Continental Army Command, from Fort Monroe, Virginia.

For the first time, the parade will be televised for viewing throughout Southern California on the Sunday afternoon following the Saturday morning parade.

Each year the nine-year-old civic event, witnessed by 100,000 spectators, is sponsored jointly by the City of Torrance and the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce. It is headed for the fifth year by General Chairman George S. Wing.

## North High Youth Hurts Right Knee

An 18-year old North High student injured his right knee Tuesday when his motorcycle collided with a car on 182nd Street near Yukon Avenue.

Treated at Little Company of Mary Hospital was Kenneth Ziegler of 705 Border Ave.

Torrance police will seek a right-of-way complaint against Mrs. Sharon M. Mantecon, 4171 W. 172nd St., the car's driver.



"There's one thing to be said for a good education: it enables us to worry about things all over the world."

## Press-Herald

Every Wednesday and Sunday 3238 W. Sepulveda Blvd., Torrance

1967 PRIZE-WINNING NEWSPAPER of the CALIFORNIA NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

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## Obituaries

### Joseph Kennedy

Funeral services for Joseph Evel Kennedy, of 162 W. 220th St., were held Saturday at the Stone and Myers Chapel of the Bells with the Rev. Robert Dehn officiating.

Mr. Kennedy died Thursday. He was born Oct. 17, 1888, in Arkansas and had lived in Torrance for 44 years before his death. He worked here for the National Supply Co. for 30 years.

He is survived by his widow, Nora; two daughters, Ethel Irene Fagan of Hawthorne and Mildred Maxine Nagy of Santa Barbara; and a son, James William Kennedy of LaMirada. Also surviving are six grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

## Van Driver Pro, Con Arguments Reported

A 12-year-old Torrance boy suffered extensive abrasions Thursday night when a van truck ran over both his legs on Crenshaw Boulevard, near the intersection of 190th Street.

Witnesses told Torrance police that the van's driver made no attempt to stop. Felony hit-and-run charges will be sought against the motorist when police trace the vehicle, described as white or beige in color.

The victim was Jimmie Mills, 18903 Clenshaw Blvd. He was rushed to Harbor General Hospital for treatment. The boy told police he and his brother had been playing tag. Jimmie said he ran into the street, lost his footing, and fell beneath the van's wheels.

An information pamphlet giving background information and pro and con arguments on two ballot measures to be decided by Torrance voters April 9 has been prepared by the Torrance League of Women Voters.

Mrs. William Birdsall, voters service chairman for the League, said the pamphlets may be obtained at any library in the city. Additional copies will be made available to clubs and other organizations.

The two ballot measures include a proposal to raise the salary of councilmen to \$300 per month and \$450 per month for the mayor and a proposal to repeal the city's Uniform Housing Code.

## Ceremonies Set Today To Honor Eagle Scouts

Twelve Eagle Scouts will be honored this afternoon at 2 o'clock during special awards ceremonies to be held at the Torrance Scout Center, 2365 Plaza del Amo.

Helen Kazelskis, president of the Scout board, will make the presentations to Eagle Scouts who are members of Troop 315 and Troop 248, both of Torrance.

Eagles from Troop 315 to be honored include Don Thayer, Tom Thayer, Terry Grove, and Billy Lehman. Troop 248 Eagles are David Cicel, William Johnston, Robert Cicel, Thomas Green, Gerald Creager, Lother Deil, Michael Silence, and Douglas Ray.

Guest speakers for the afternoon will include Paul

Dunn, deputy Scout executive; Dr. Donald Wilson, a member of the Torrance Board of Education, and Mayor Albert Isen.

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EXPERIENCED . . .

- CHAIRMAN of Torrance Merchants Sign Committee.
- SUCCESSFULLY opposed impossible "Sign Law."
- Torrance City Planning Commission (1964-1966).
- VIGOROUSLY supporting proper planning and sensible zoning.

LEO F. X. SALISBURY FOR Torrance City Councilman

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